



CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES

Silicon Valley Delegation:

Reps. Pete Stark, Anna Eshoo, Zoe Lofgren, and Mike Honda

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FEDERAL TRANSIT FUNDING COMING TO SILICON VALLEY

Area delegation secures funding for important transportation needs

(Washington, DC) Last night, the House of Representatives passed the federal transportation funding bill for the next fiscal year. The bill contained funds for several projects in the Silicon Valley. These projects are dedicated to help alleviate traffic congestion and improve transportation services in Santa Clara County. Reps. Pete Stark (D-Fremont), Anna Eshoo (D-Palo Alto), Zoe Lofgren (D-San Jose), and Mike Honda (D-San Jose) joined together to secure this important funding. Rep. Honda is a member of the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee.

Funded Projects for Fiscal Year 2002:

1. Tasman West Light Rail Project (\$113,336) – Funds will go to pay for the final stages of the 7.6-mile extension of Valley Transportation Authority's (VTA) light rail system into the heart of Silicon Valley.
2. Clean Bus Program (\$500,000) - Funds will go to buying fuel cell buses, installing a hydrogen fueling station, and upgrading existing facilities to take advantage of new technology.
3. Silicon Transportation Management Center Facility (\$1.5 million) – Together, the County and City governments, the California Highway Patrol, Caltrans, VTA, and other local jurisdictions, will create a comprehensive system to address traffic congestion by using state-of-the-art technology like real-time travel information, Global Positioning Systems, and traffic signal synchronization.
4. Access to Jobs/Reverse Commute Program (\$500,000)- The program provides affordable transportation services to help welfare recipients transition to the workforce.

"Today's transportation spending bill provides funding that will enhance the mobility and improve the quality of life of Santa Clara County residents, who currently spend a cumulative total of 34,000 hours stuck in traffic each day," said Rep. Mike Honda (D-San Jose). "Silicon Valley is a vitally important economic engine for our nation's economy— it is essential that we continue to work together to improve our transportation system so that our fast-growing region will continue to prosper."

Rep. Stark stated: "I'm pleased that, through our joint efforts with my colleagues from California, we were able to secure funding for these important projects. These funds are critical in our continued efforts to address the traffic congestion and other transportation challenges facing our community."

"Yesterday's vote marks an important victory for commuters in Silicon Valley," added Eshoo. "I'm proud to have secured, along with my colleagues, more than \$2.6 million dollars to strengthen the transportation infrastructure in our region. The Clean Bus Program, the Tasman West Light Rail Project, the Silicon Transportation Management Center Facility, and the Access to Jobs / Reverse Commute Program are all critical projects to ease the congestion in Silicon Valley and a great investment of our tax dollars."

"It was important that we were able to join together to emphasize the importance of these projects to Santa Clara County," said Lofgren. "I think this helped add collective weight to get funding for these projects. This funding will greatly help commuters who are forced to spend way too long in traffic tie ups."